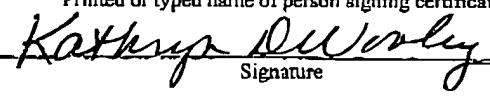


IN THE UNITED STATE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application Of: Wilde et al.
U.S. Pat. App. Ser. No.: 09/307,295
Filing Date: May 7, 1999
Art Unit: 3673
Examiner: Jong-Suk (James) Lee
Invention: VARIABLE BUOYANCY BUOY FOR MOORING MOBILE
OFFSHORE DRILLING UNITS

RECEIVED
MAR 05 2001
GROUP 3600

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being forwarded via facsimile under 37 C.F.R. 1.6 and is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on this day.	
Kathryn D. Wooley	
Printed or typed name of person signing certificate	
	Signature
Express Mail Label No.	EL 723937749 US
Date of Signature:	March 5, 2001

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 (b)(3)

I, John W. Montgomery, am a registered patent attorney, U.S. Patent Attorney Registration Number 31,124. I have been a member of the patent bar for over fifteen years.

On July 11, 2000, I mailed an Amendment After Final in connection with U.S. patent application serial number 09/307,295 as first class mail with the United States Post Office after signing the certificate of mailing. I had previously spoke to the Examiner on June 13, 2000. The Amendment After Final was timely filed in accordance with Rule 8.

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 901033-1001
(COPY ATTACHED HERETO)
JWM 03/04/01
JWM 03/04/01

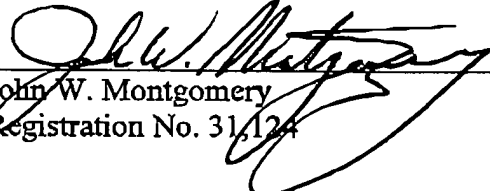
Attorney Docket No. 901033-1001

PATENT

I declare under penalty of perjury the foregoing is true and accurate.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 03/02/01


John W. Montgomery
Registration No. 31,124

HOUSTON 539328v1

Sent by: GARDERE WYNNE SEWELL, LLP

713 276 5555;

03/02/01 3:47PM; JetFax #459; Page 2/13

Interview SummaryApplication No.
09/307,295

Applicant(s)

Wilda et al.

Examiner

Jong-Suk (James) Lee

Group Art Unit
3673

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Jong-Suk (James) Lee

(3)

(2) Mr. John Montgomery (Reg. No. 31,124)

(4)

Date of Interview Jun 13, 2000Type: ☒ Telephonic ☐ Personal (copy is given to ☐ applicant ☐ applicant's representative).Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: ☐ Yes ☒ No. If yes, brief description:Agreement ☐ was reached. ☒ was not reached.Claim(s) discussed: 30 and 35

Identification of prior art discussed:

Corley (US 1,295,008)

Description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments:

Applicant's attorney explained the distinctiveness of the invention over the prior art discussed is that the buoy having an (a plurality of) auxiliary buoyant member(s) removably mountable on the frame to selectively change the buoyancy of the buoy. However, examiner respectfully disagreed by mentioning that the recitation for the selectively removably mountable buoyant members to the frame does not define over the Corley reference insofar as it is not clarified whether the buoy has a variety of buoyancy while it is being utilized on site/ in operation, or being manufactured. Applicant notified to file formal amendment by clarifying the discussed issue.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments, if available, which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments which would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

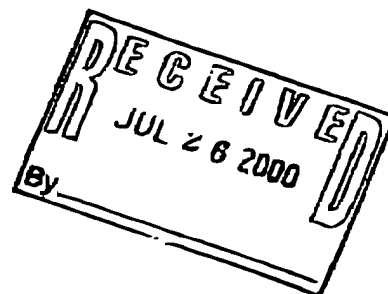
1. ☒ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview.

Unless the paragraph above has been checked to indicate to the contrary, A FORMAL WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION IS NOT WAIVED AND MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a response to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW.

2. ☐ Since the Examiner's interview summary above (including any attachments) reflects a complete response to each of the objections, rejections and requirements that may be present in the last Office action, and since the claims are now allowable, this completed form is considered to fulfill the response requirements of the last Office action. Applicant is not relieved from providing a separate record of the interview unless box 1 above is also checked.

EILEEN D. LILLIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3800

Examiner Note: You must sign and stamp this form unless it is an attachment to a signed Office action.



Attorney(s): JWM
Client/Matter#: 901033-1001
Title: Variable Buoyancy Buoy for Mooring Mobile Offshore Drilling Units
Inventor(s): Wilde et al.
Today's Date: 7/11/00 Due Date: 7/11/00 Filed with U. S. Patent Office on: 5/7/99

Check Amount: \$
Serial/Patent No.: 09/307,295

APPLICATION FOR PATENT (Check all items that apply):

- ☐ Spec pages ☐ Claims
☐ Drawings ☒ 2 Sheets
☐ Declaration ☐ Oath ☐ Power of Attorney
☐ Verified Statement
☐ Assignment
☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional
☐ CIP Application
☐ Preliminary Amendment
☐ Information Disclosure Statement
☐ Amendment
☐ Amendment Under Rule 1.312
☒ Amendment After Final
☐ Issue Fee Transmittal
☐ Letter
☐ Notice of Appeal

- ☐ Brief
☐ Patent Maintenance Fee
☐ Petition
☐ Response
☐ Status Request
☐ Other: _____

- ☐ Express Mail
☒ Certificate of Mailing
☒ First Class Mail
☐ Hand Delivery via Rachel Carmichael



DOCKETED
SW

IN THE UNITED STATE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application Of: Wilde et al.

U.S. Pat. App. Ser. No.: 09/307,295

Filing Date: May 7, 1999

Art Unit: 3673

Examiner: Jong-Suk (James) Lee

Invention: VARIABLE BUOYANCY BUOY FOR MOORING MOBILE
OFFSHORE DRILLING UNITS

RECEIVED

MAR 12 2001

TO 3600 MAIL ROOM



Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being forwarded via facsimile under 37 C.F.R. 1.6 and is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on this day.

Kathryn D. Wooley

Printed or typed name of person signing certificate

Kathryn D. Wooley

Signature

Express Mail Label No. EL 723937749 US

Date of Signature: *March 5, 2001*

STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 (b)(3)

I, John W. Montgomery, am a registered patent attorney, U.S. Patent Attorney Registration Number 31,124. I have been a member of the patent bar for over fifteen years.

On July 11, 2000, I mailed an Amendment After Final in connection with U.S. patent application serial number 09/307,295 as first class mail with the United States Post Office after signing the certificate of mailing. I had previously spoke to the Examiner on June 13, 2000. The Amendment After Final was timely filed in accordance with Rule 8.

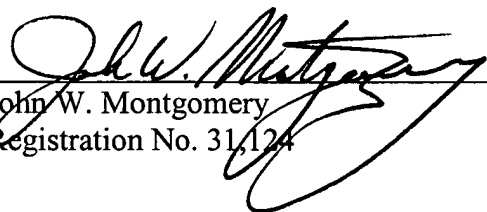
I declare under penalty of perjury the foregoing is true and accurate.

Respectfully submitted,



Date:

03/02/01


John W. Montgomery
Registration No. 31,124

HOUSTON 539328v1

RECEIVED

MAR 12 2001

TO 3600 MAIL ROOM

Interview Summary

Application No.

09/307,295

Applicant(s)

Wilde et al.

Examiner

Jong-Suk (James) Lee

Group Art Unit

3673

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Jong-Suk (James) Lee

(3) _____

(2) Mr. John Montgomery (Reg. No. 31,124)

(4) _____

Date of Interview Jun 13, 2000Type: ☒ Telephonic ☐ Personal (copy is given to ☐ applicant ☐ applicant's representative).Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: ☐ Yes ☒ No. If yes, brief description:Agreement ☐ was reached. ☒ was not reached.Claim(s) discussed: 30 and 35

Identification of prior art discussed:

Corley (US 1,295,008)

Description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments:

Applicant's attorney explained the distinctiveness of the invention over the prior art discussed is that the buoy having an (a plurality of) auxiliary buoyant member(s) removably mountable on the frame to selectively change the buoyancy of the buoy. However, examiner respectfully disagreed by mentioning that the recitation for the selectively removably mountable buoyant members to the frame does not define over the corley reference insofar as it is not clarified whether the buoy has a variety of buoyancy while it is being utilized on site/ in operation, or being manufactured. Applicant notified to file formal amendment by clarifying the discussed issue.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments, if available, which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments which would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

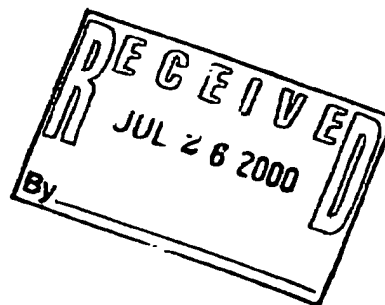
1. ☒ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview.

Unless the paragraph above has been checked to indicate to the contrary, A FORMAL WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION IS NOT WAIVED AND MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a response to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW.

2. ☐ Since the Examiner's interview summary above (including any attachments) reflects a complete response to each of the objections, rejections and requirements that may be present in the last Office action, and since the claims are now allowable, this completed form is considered to fulfill the response requirements of the last Office action. Applicant is not relieved from providing a separate record of the interview unless box 1 above is also checked.

EILEEN D. LILLIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

Examiner Note: You must sign and stamp this form unless it is an attachment to a signed Office action.



Attorney(s): JWM
 Client/Matter#: 901033-1001
 Title: Variable Buoyancy Buoy for Mooring Mobile Offshore Drilling Units
 Inventor(s): Wilde et al.
 Today's Date: 7/11/00 Due Date: 7/11/00 Filed with U. S. Patent Office on 5/7/99

Check Amount: \$

Serial/Patent No.: 09/307,295

APPLICATION FOR PATENT (Check all items that apply):

- ☐ Spec pages ☐ Claims
☐ Drawings ☒ 2 Sheets
☐ Declaration ☐ Oath ☐ Power of Attorney
☐ Verified Statement
☐ Assignment
☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional
☐ CIP Application
☐ Preliminary Amendment
☐ Information Disclosure Statement
☐ Amendment
☒ Amendment Under Rule 1.312
☒ Amendment After Final
☐ Issue Fee Transmittal
☐ Letter
☐ Notice of Appeal

- ☐ Brief
☒ Patent Maintenance Fee
☐ Petition:
☐ Response
☐ Status Request
☐ Other: _____

- ☐ Express Mail
☒ Certificate of Mailing
☒ First Class Mail
☐ Hand Delivery via Rachel Carmichael

RECEIVED

MAR 12 2001

TO 3600 MAIL ROOM

DOCKETED

Sm